

March 15, 2025

To the Members of the House Education Committee,

I'm Joe Franklin, a parent at Oak Grove Lutheran School in Fargo, writing in support of Senate Bill 2400. This bill establishes an education savings account (ESA) program and provides an appropriation, empowering North Dakota families to choose the best education for their children, including private schools like Oak Grove.

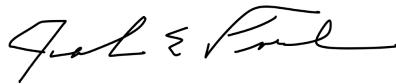
We chose Oak Grove for its small, supportive environment—perfect for students who thrive outside the large Fargo and West Fargo districts. With fewer students, it offers personalized attention and a community where my child excels. Its size and history encourage participation in diverse activities, preparing students for varied futures. This choice reflects our family's values and commitment to our child's growth.

SB 2400 would fund ESAs for educational expenses, including tuition and services at nonpublic schools, public schools, or home-school settings, with an income test for eligibility. This "new money" won't impact public school funding, as Dr. Patrick Wolf noted in The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead. His research shows school choice benefits students by meeting individual needs.

This bill affirms that parents know what's best for their children. Not every student succeeds in the same environment, and Oak Grove plays a vital role in North Dakota's largest market. Passing SB 2400 would help more families access settings where their kids can thrive. Please support this legislation and expand educational options for our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Franklin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joe Franklin
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